Import of Kerosene by State Trading Corporation

1088. SHRI T. VENKATRAM REDDY:
SHRI G. PRATHAPA REDDY:

Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the State Trading Corporation has any proposal to import kerosene as reported in the Economic Times dated 13th July, 1995;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(c) the steps being taken by Government to supply Kerosene to the common people at reasonable prices?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM): (a) and (b) In December, 1994, State Trading Corporation (STC) approached Indian Oil Corporation (IOC) for utilising IOC's storage facilities for storage of imported Superior Kerosene Oil (SKO)- However, IOC regretted its inability, since it did not have spare storage capacity available at Bombay and Kandla for being offered to STC. However, as part of diversification of its trade activities efforts are being made by STC to arrange suitable storage tanks of adequate capacity alongwith necessary infrastructural facilities at major ports for storage and distribution of SKO. The imports will be arranged by STC subject to availability of such infrastructure and economic viability of operations.

(c) Under the administered pricing policy of petroleum products, the prices of products like Kerosene used by the common people are subsidised.

Non-Plan Assistance to Super Bazar

1089. SHRI O. P. KOHLI: Will the Minister of CIVIL SUPPLIES, CONSUMER AFFAIRS AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to refer to ilic answer to Unstarred Question 691 given in the Rajya Sabha on 4th December, 1995 and state:

(a) whether there has never been any provision for providing non-plan assistance to Super Bazar;

(b) if so, the reasons for providing financial assistance to Super Bazar as 'subsidy' and 'loan';

(c) whether the utilisation Certificates in respect of the- funds provided by Government to the Super Bazar during 1992-93, 1993-94, 1994-95 and 1995-96 have been received; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor and the reasons for giving subsidy, loan, assistance by Government in the absence of providing first the Utilisation Certificates?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL SUPPLIES, CONSUMER AFFAIRS AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (DEPTT. OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION SYSTEM) (SHRI VENOD SHARMA): (a) Super Bazar has not received any non-plan assistance from the Government.

(b) Govt, of India provide financial assistance to Super Bazar in the form of loan and subsidy for the expansion and development activities under the Central Sector Scheme, in public interest.

(c) and (d) Super Bazar has furnished utilisation certificate in respect of the funds received by them during the year 1992-93. In respect of funds received during the years 1993-94 and 1994-95, utilisation certificate in respect of only one of the schemes has been furnished and utilisation certificate in respect of other schemes is pending. During 1995-96, no financial assistance has yet been released to the Super Bazar.

It has been reported by Super Bazar that utilisation of balance funds received by them during the years 1993-94 and 1994-95 is in progress.